

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03536 272053Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1326

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3536

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR

SUBJECT: A "NEW FACE" TO THE GOVERNMENT

REF : SD 3421

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER, IN HIS AUG 16 INAUGURAL ADDRESS, PROMISED THAT HE WOULD RID HIMSELF OF SOME OF HIS OLDEST COLLABORATORS AND GIVE A "NEW FACE" TO HIS NEXT GOVERNMENT. SINCE THE SPEECH WAS MADE 10 DAYS AGO, TWO NEW HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE: LIC. RAFAEL DAVID CASTILLO REPLACED DR. JOSE A QUEZADA AS DIRECTOR OF CORDE (STATE ENTERPRISES); DR. FERNANDO AMIAMA TIO REPLACED BRIGADIER RAFAEL DE JESUS CHECO AS SECRETARY OF STATE OF INTERIOR AND POLICE. (NEITHER OF THE MEN WHO LOST THEIR JOBS HAVE YET BEEN GIVEN NEW POSITIONS.)

2. THE TWO APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED: CASTILLO IS CONSIDERED A COMPETENT AND HONEST ADMINISTRATOR, REPRESENTING DOMINICAN PRIVATE BUSINESS INTERESTS IN THE GODR; DR. AMIAMA TIO'S NOMINATION IS INTERPRETED AS PROOF THAT BALAGUER HAS ONCE AGAIN GAINED THE SUPPORT OF THE WEALTHY CONSERVATIVE INDUSTRIALISTS WHO ARE LINKED TO DR. AMIAMA TIO AND HIS BROTHER LUIS. NEITHER OF THE TWO CAN BE CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, AS INVETERATE OPPOSITIONISTS: CASTILLO, ALTHOUGH ELECTED TO A NATIONAL DEPUTY POSITION

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PAGE 02 SANTO 03536 272053Z

BY THE PARTIDO QUISQUEYANO DEMOCRATA IN 1970, QUICKLY WENT

OVER TO THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT; AMIAMA, WHO SERVED AS SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDER BALAGUER FROM 1967-70, WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH THE OPPOSITION ONLY FROM OCTOBER 1972 UNTIL MAY 1974 BY PROMOTING A POLITICAL GROUPING TO SEEK THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION FOR HIS BROTHER, LUIS (WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF TRUJILLO).

3. THE PRESIDENT'S DELAY IN NAMING OTHER HIGH-LEVEL FUNCTIONARIES IS ATTRIBUTED TO HIS DESIRE TO ENTICE MAJOR OPPOSITION FIGURES INTO THE CABINET. MANY POLITICAL COMMENTATORS THINK THAT HE WILL HOLD OFF ON FURTHER IMPORTANT NOMINATIONS UNTIL THE SANTIAGO ACCORD CLARIFIES ITS POSITION VIS-A-VIS ENTERING THE GOVERNMENT. SHOULD THE ACCORD REFUSE ITS COOPERATION TO BALAGUER, IT IS LIKELY THAT HE WILL THEN TURN TO PROMINENT AND RESPECTED INDEPENDENTS. IN ANY CASE, HIS DELAY IN NOMINATING THE CABINET FOR HIS NEW ADMINISTRATION IS CAUSING MANY SLEEPLESS NIGHTS FOR HIS "OLDEST COLLABORATORS."
HURWITCH

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